Sale of toddy by females.

93. ❋ MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received a resolution passed in the Abkari Contractors' Association of the Quilon, Kottarakara and Pattanapuram taluks, requesting the Government to prevent females from selling toddy in toddy shops?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The answer is in the negative.

PRESIDENT: We will now pass on to the questions posted for today.

Recovery of contribution on irrigation works.

99. ❋ MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the steps taken by them on the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee that the claim of the Government for the recovery of a contribution towards the cost, or of a cess based on the cost of irrigation works, must be waived until further notice; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, owing to the insistence of this right by the Government, the progress of the execution of irrigation works is delayed, since the procedure under the Irrigation Regulation has to be passed through before the commencement of the work?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) The amendment to the Irrigation Regulation based on the recommendation of the Minor Irrigation Committee is under consideration. The point raised will also be considered along with the said amendment.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know when the report of the Minor Irrigation Committee was submitted?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): In 1931 it was forwarded to Government.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know the reason for the delay of four years in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee to amend the Irrigation Regulation?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings, and Irrigation*): It was decided that the amendment will be taken up only after the Irrigation Division Officer had gained some experience in the work. As the Division is new, it is considered too early to make any amendments in the Regulation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know how many years' more experience must be gained by the Division Officer before steps are taken for acting upon the Irrigation Committee's Report?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): That will depend upon the Irrigation Officer's Report.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether it depends entirely upon the report of the Irrigation Division Officer?

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